



## The Navajo Nation Council - Office of the Speaker

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Navajo Council to convene for special session to consider overrides of President Shirley's vetoes**

**WINDOW ROCK, AZ** — The 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council will convene for a special session to consider several overrides of vetoes by Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley Jr. at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 11, at the historic Navajo Nation Council chamber.

The purpose of the first legislation is to override the president's veto of a Navajo Nation Council Resolution, which would enact the Navajo Nation Commercial Tobacco-Free Act of 2008. If an override is granted by the Council, tobacco usage in public places will be banned on the Navajo Nation. The legislation relates to health, judiciary, and economic development. The primary sponsor of the bill is Thomas C. Walker Jr., council delegate for the chapters of Bird Springs/Tolani Lake/Leupp.

The second legislation is to override the president's veto approving the purchase of the Inn of Gallup. The override would authorize the Council to purchase the hotel — formally known as the Holiday Inn of Gallup — using \$6.6 million from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, including an additional \$2.6 from the fund for hotel renovations. The legislation relates to resources and economic development. The primary sponsor of the bill is George Arthur, council delegate for the chapters of T'iistoh Sikaad/San Juan/Nenanezad.

The third legislation is to override the president's veto to amend three titles of the Navajo Nation Code which relate to the Board of Education Amendments Act of 2008. If an override is granted by the Council, authority of the Navajo Nation Board of Education will be given to the Education Committee of the Navajo Nation Council. It will also reduce the number of board members from 11 to seven and unseat the elected members. The legislation relates to the Education Committee and the primary sponsor is Willie Tracey Jr., council delegate for the chapters of Ganado/Kinlichee.

The final piece of legislation relates to resources and intergovernmental relations. The legislation proposes to repeal a resolution adopted on July 8, 1930 by the Navajo Tribal Council. The original legislation authorized the President of United States to establish the Canyon de Chelly National Monument to be administered by the National Park Service.

The new legislation is requesting the Council to adopt a new official position for the Navajo Nation, so a transfer of the administration, oversight and funding of the national park will be given to the Nation. Primary sponsors include George Arthur (Burnham/San Juan/Nenahnzead) and Norman John II (Twin Lakes).

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